

Claims:

1. Aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion, being essentially free of fluorine-containing emulsifier.

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2. Dispersion according to claim 1, containing less than 100 ppm of fluorine-containing emulsifier.

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3. Dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the fluoropolymer is a polymer of tetrafluoroethylene.

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4. Dispersion according to claim 3, wherein the polymer contains at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of fluorinated olefins of 2 to 8 carbon atoms, fluorinated alkyl vinyl ethers and fluorinated alkoxy vinyl ethers with an alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

5. Dispersion according to claim 4, wherein the fluorinated olefin and the alkyl vinyl ether are each perfluorinated.

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6. Dispersion according to claim 4, wherein the fluorinated olefin is selected from hexafluoropropene and vinylidene fluoride.

7. Dispersion according to claim 5, wherein the alkyl vinyl ether is selected from perfluoro-(n-propyl-vinyl) ether and perfluoro-(methyl-vinyl) ether.

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8. Dispersion according to claim 3, wherein the polymer contains 90 to 100 mol% tetrafluoroethylene.

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9. Dispersion according to claim 1, wherein the fluoropolymer comprises one or more fluorinated monomers, with the proviso that none of the monomers are tetrafluoroethylene.

10. A process for removing fluorine-containing emulsifier from an aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion which comprises adding to the dispersion an effective amount of a

nonionic emulsifier to stabilize the dispersion, contacting this stabilized dispersion with an effective amount of an anion exchange resin to essentially remove fluorine-containing emulsifier from the stabilized dispersion and separating the dispersion from the anion exchange resin and optionally, subjecting the so-obtained dispersion to upconcentration.

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11. The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the solids content of the said dispersion is 10 to 70 weight-%.

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12. The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the stabilized dispersion is contacted with the anion exchange resin in a basic environment.

13. The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein from 0.5 to 15 % by weight of nonionic emulsifier is added, based on the weight of the solids content of the dispersion.

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14. The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the anion exchange resin has a counterion corresponding to an acid with a pKa value of at least 3.

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15. The process as claimed in claim 10, wherein the anion exchange resin is used in the hydroxyl form.

16. An article prepared with an aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion according to claim 1.

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17. An article comprising an aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion prepared according to claim 10.

18. An article comprising a coating of an aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion according to claim 1.

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19. An article comprising a coating of an aqueous fluoropolymer dispersion prepared according to claim 10.

20. An article according to claim 17 comprising a fabric.

21. An article according to claim 17 wherein the article is metal.